***Parnassia fimbriata*** Koenig. var. ***hoodiana*** C.L. Hitchc.
fringed grass-of-Parnassus
Saxifragaceae (Saxifrage Family)

**Status:** State Threatened
**Rank:** G4T3S1

**General Description:** Adapted from Hitchcock et al. (1961): A rather stout perennial herb from a short rootstock that is from slightly ascending to nearly erect. There are 1-several flowering stems that are mostly 6 to 19½ in. (15 to 50 cm) tall. The bract on the flowering stems is heart shaped (with point toward apex) and more or less clasping, mostly ¼ to ¾ in. (5 to 20 mm) long, and borne from slightly below to considerably above midlength of the leafless stalk. The petioles are ¼ to 6 in. (1 to 15 cm) long. The leaf blades are ½ to 2 in. (1½ to 5 cm) broad, mostly kidney shaped to heart shaped. The calyx is fused with the ovary for only about 1/32 in. (1 mm), the segments are oblong-ovate to elliptic-oval, 1/8 to ¼ in. (4 to 7 mm) long, usually 5 to 7 veined, entire or more commonly crenulate-fimbriate, at least toward the rounded tip. The petals are white, 5- to 7-veined, ¼ to ½ in. (8 to 12 mm) long (about twice as long as the calyx lobes), more or less cuneate-obovate in general appearance but clawlike at the base and with numerous long filiform-linear fimbriae (hair like appendages), becoming more or less jagged to entire on the upper half. The staminodia (a staminode is a sterile stamen that does not produce pollen) ends in slender, filament-like segments. There are generally less than 10 staminodia segments per staminode that are all marginal, and equaling (or longer than) the rather narrow basal portion of the staminode. The filaments are stout, about equaling the calyx segments, and the anthers are 1/16 to 1/8 in. (2 to 2½ mm) long. The capsule is ovoid and about ¼ in. (1 cm) long.

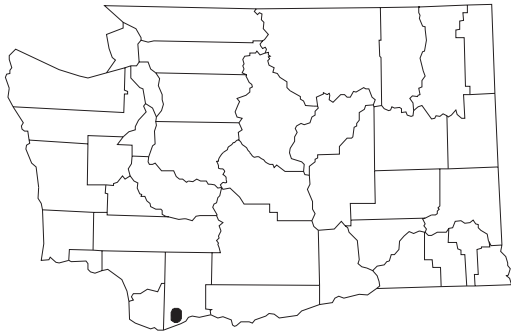
**Identification Tips:** There are three varieties of *Parnassia fimbriata*. While var. *fimbriata* and var. *intermedia* may overlap in Oregon, var. *intermedia* is not found in Washington. *P. fimbriata* var. *hoodiana* and *Parnassia fimbriata* var. *fimbriata*, which both occur in Washington, can be distinguished by their staminodia. A staminode is a sterile stamen that does not produce pollen. The staminodia of var. *hoodiana* end in longer, more slender, filamentlike, and usually capitate segments whereas the staminodia of var. *fimbriata* are short and thick with short and rounded marginal segments and they are not at all filamentlike.

**Phenology:** Identifiable June through August.

## ***Parnassia fimbriata*** var. ***hoodiana***
fringed grass-of-Parnassus



Known distribution of
*Parnassia fimbriata*
var. *caespitosum*
in Washington



● Current (1980+)
◌ Historic (older than 1980)

## *Parnassia fimbriata* var. *hoodiana*
fringed grass-of-Parnassus


Photo by Lois Kemp


Washington Natural Heritage Program photo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2003 Produced as part of a cooperative project between the Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington Natural Heritage Program and the U.S.D.I. Bureau of Land Management. Persons needing this information in an alternative format, call (360) 902-1600 or TTY (360) 902-1125.

## *Parnassia fimbriata* var. *hoodiana*
fringed grass-of-Parnassus

**Range:** This regionally endemic taxon is found in the Cascade Mountains of northern Oregon and in Skamania County, Washington.

**Habitat:** *Parnassia fimbriata* var. *hoodiana* is found in very wet meadows with springs, streams, and ponds on low rock outcrops and on damp edges of small spring-fed ponds at an elevation of 3100 to 3350 ft (945 to 1021 m). Associated species include sparse-flowered bog orchid (*Habenaria sparsiflora*), American bistort (*Polygonum bistortoides*), king's scepter gentian (*Gentiana sceptrum*), slender bog orchid (*Habenaria saccata*), marsh violet (*Viola palustris*), Howell's marsh marigold (*Caltha biflora*), and arrowleaf ragwort (*Senecio triangularis*).

**Ecology:** This taxon prefers moist to wet areas at high elevations.

**State Status Comments:** This taxon is known from two recent occurrences in Skamania County. One site is on private land and the other is on public land.

**Inventory Needs:** Bogs, wet meadows, and stream banks at mid to high elevations should be systematically surveyed for additional populations. Known occurrences should be revisited.

**Threats and Management Concerns:** Current threats include timber harvest, an altered hydrologic regime, and possibly grazing.

**References:**

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, J.W. Thompson. 1961. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest* Part 3: *Saxifragaceae to Ericaceae.* University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA. 614 pp.

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